helped the States to overcome the cash imbalance from time to time on the requests from the States.

To supplement the efforts of the States towards fiscal consolidation, the Government of India has created the Fiscal Reform Facility 2000-01 to 2004-05.

Besides, Government of India has also put forward a proposal for "debt swap" to enable the States to retire high cost debts.

(c) According to information from the respective States, and Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines have not refused air tickets to Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Assam during the current year.

(d) Does not arise.

Representation of Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association

1987. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association has represented against excise duty on whole range of Asavs;

(b) if so, the magnitude of the excise duty imposed on Asavs;

(c) whether this has increased difficulties of the industry which is struggling to survive in a highly competitive market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide relief to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers Association has *inter alia* sought exemption from central excise duty on certain Patent and Proprietary Ayurvedic medicines and not against Asavs specifically.

(b) Central excise duty of 16% is levied only on Patent and Proprietary Ayurvedic medicines.

There has been no increase or fresh levy of Central Excise duty on the Ayurvedic medicines for the last three years. Ayurvedic medicines manufactured exclusively in accordance with the formulae prescribed in the authoritative texts specified in the first schedule to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and sold under the name specified in such books are, however, fully exempt from excise duty.

(c) and (d) As duty is levied only on Patent and Proprietary Ayurvedic medicines and generic ayurvedic medicines are fully exempted. There is no proposal for making any changes in the excise duty rates for the present.

Performance of Debt Recovery Tribunals

1988. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assesssment of the performance of Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(b) if so, the findings in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken for further strengthening of the machinery for making speedy recoveries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The performance of DRTs is reviewed at regular intervals. Initially the rate of disposal of cases was not to the desired level on account of legal anomalies encountered and Writ Petitions filed in several High courts challenging the validity of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act). With the amendment of the DRT Act in the year 2000 to remove the legal anomalies and, the judgment dated 14.3.2002 of the hon'ble Supreme Court declaring the DRT Act as a valid piece of legislation, disposal of cases and recovery of dues to Banks and Financial Institutions have considerably increased. During the year 2001-02, 8931 number of cases were disposed off and Rs. 2153.19 crores were recovered as against 4637 number of cases and Rs. 1184.92 crores respectively during 2000-01. During the current year, DRTs are showing further improvement in disposal and recovery.